



Randolph Community Forest

Sustainable forestry & traditional uses on 10,000 acres in Randolph, NH

Date: July 2, 2025

Location: Randolph Town Hall

Members Present: Mark Kelley, Laura Brockett, David Willcox , and Nate Reid

Guests Present: David DeGruttola from LandVest, and Shelli Fortin, Minutes

Mark Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

David Willcox, alternate member, was appointed to sit in for Walter Graff.

I. Review Minutes of June Meeting

On a motion by Laura Brockett, seconded by Nate Reid, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2025, meeting as presented.

II. Financial Review

A. Invoices Received

An invoice was received from LandVest for work in May in the amount of \$1,853.78. The invoice was signed by members present for payment.

An invoice was also received from JML for the road work, for \$10,670. This will be paid directly by LandVest, and included on the next invoice from LandVest.

B. Payments Received

One check was received from LandVest in the amount of \$998.59 for Little Ledge.

C. Financial Review

Mark Kelley reviewed the income and expenses this year, noting that they have received more income than budgeted for, and that the expenses have been less than budgeted. The Grants and Gifts account has over \$282,000,

and the Management Revolving Fund is at \$221,000, which is up by \$45,000 from June of 2025.

III. 2025 Project Planning

A. Jimtown Logging Road

Mark Kelley advised that three Forest Commission members, David DeGruttola, Elise Lawson, NRCS representative Kelly Eggleston and NH Trails Bureau representative Clint Savage walked the Jimtown Logging Road. David DeGruttola advised that Clint Savage is still looking for funding from the NH Trails Bureau to assist with this project. Kelly Eggleston was encouraged that the road is used not just snowmobiling, but also other recreation. The multiple use recreation will help her advocate for the project. The project will most like be a year out, with the application process and engineering. They will be looking to replace many culverts, and four or five bridges. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he could do the survey this year and get costs, so that it can be built into the 2026 budget.

B. Forest Day

Mark Kelley advised that he will need a host for Forest Day, as he is unable to attend. Kelley will ask Walter Graff if he is available. The room has been reserved for 9am on August 2. Information on Forest Day was included in the most recent Randolph newsletter.

C. Potter Memorial Tree

Mark Kelley advised that the tree is growing nicely. It was suggested that the mowing be done before Forest Day, as there will be a dedication for the tree. Mark Kelley suggested that it be budgeted to mow this area more frequently in future years, along with the trailhead parking area across the street.

IV. Forester's Report

David DeGruttola advised that the road has been completed for the tower site. Mr. DeGruttola advised that he needs to move some coarse woody debris, and will come to scatter some seed at this site at the same time.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the contract is in place for Knotweed Control with Joel White. The DES Wetlands Permit is on the way. Mr. White will do his initial cut soon, before spraying in August.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the gates have been paid for and are being built. A gate was found on the Jimtown Logging Road, which they will use

somewhere else., possibly the Little Ledge area, past the parking area at the bottom of the road.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he has received an email from Elise Lawson about the transects.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that he has received a draft of a note prepared by David Willcox, with help from Elise Lawson, for the purpose of making a case for a conservation easement on the Farrar Farm. This is a critical piece of protected land needed to connect Federal, State, and Community Forest lands from the Connecticut Lakes region in the north through the White Mountain National Forest in the south. The State has shown an interest in holding an easement over the Farrar Farm, and Sally Manikian will be assisting with this process. Willcox asked about other parcels that are not covered by the original Forest Legacy easement, and Mr. DeGruttola advised that they should concentrate on the Farrar tract, as it is the one most in danger of being developed in the future. The Randolph Town Meeting has already passed a warrant article granting an easement over the Farrar Farm to the State, however any new parcel in the Community Forest would need to have an easement voted on at Town meeting before an easement could be placed on it.

Mr. DeGruttola advised that the closing out of Little Ledge is taking longer than planned due to the wet conditions.

V. Other Business

Mark Kelley noted that they had a good meeting in June with the Androscoggin Valley Community Forest Group.

Mark Kelley advised that someone is interested in renting one of the garage bays at the Farrar Farm. Kelley will check with the Town office on insurance and liability concerns.

Mark Kelley advised that he brought many items from the Farrar Farm to the Household Hazardous Waste Day at AVRRDD.

Mark Kelley advised that although they do not typically have an August meeting, he would like to hold one on August 6.

Mark Kelley advised that Rick Fournier may be interested in serving as an alternate member on the Forest Commission, along with two others that have

expressed interest. Kelley will contact them and invite them to the August meeting. The Planning Board appoints new alternate members.

VI. Executive Session

There was no executive session needed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm by general consensus.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall.